

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9300

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

US MISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, PINR, BU, GW

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO BONN

REF: SOFIA 379

1. FRG AMBASSADOR MENNE GAVE FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS AND BACK-
GROUND TO AMBASSADOR HERZ ON RECENT VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER
MLADENOV TO BONN. (WE ASSUME BONN REPORTING HIGHLIGHTS
OF COMMUNIQUE.)

2. BULGARIA SCORED SOMETHING OF A BREAKTHROUGH BY GERMAN
ACCEPTANCE OF A VISIT FROM TODOR ZHIVKOV, PARTY CHAIRMAN
AND HEAD OF STATE. VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE LAST QUARTER 1975
OR EARLY 1976. THIS IS OF COURSE SOMETHING BULGARIANS HAD
WANTED VERY MUCH.

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3. IMPORTANCE OF FRG-BULGARIAN RELATIONS APPEARS

FROM LATEST TRADE STATISTICS WHICH SHOW 1974 TOTAL TO HAVE BEEN JUST UNDER 1.1 BILLION DM (ABOUT DOLS 475 MILLION). LOPSIDEDNESS OF THAT TRADE, WITH BULGARIAN EXPORTS TO FRG ACCOUNTING FOR ONLY 230 MILLION DM, WAS ONE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. GERMANS ARE NOT EXCESSIVELY WORRIED SINCE FRG TOURISM IN BULGARIA TAKES UP OVER 120 MILLION DM, RECEIPTS IN DM FROM TURKISH TRANSIT TRAFFIC ANOTHER 100 MILLION, AND BANK CREDITS CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE. TO GERMAN RELIEF, MLADENOV MADE CLEAR THAT GOB WILL NOT TRY TO REDUCE IMPORTS TO RESTORE BALANCE.

4. NOTEWORTHY THAT GOVT CREDITS AT CONCESSIONAL TERMS WERE NOT EVEN RAISED BY BULGARIANS DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS.

5. TEN-YEAR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION, WHICH HAD BEEN INITIALED LAST YEAR, WAS NOT SIGNED DURING MLADENOV VISIT BECAUSE IT IS TO BE SIGNED DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT OF FRG TRADE MINISTER FRIEDERICH. AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL COOPERATION IS UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION. AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON OTHER HAND IS HUNG UP ON STATUS OF BERLIN SCIENTISTS AND EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED ONLY WHEN USSR HAS SHOWN BULGARIA THE WAY.

6. INTERESTING WAS THE ROLE PLAYED DURING DISCUSSIONS BY LYUDMILLA ZHIVKOVA, DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF STATE. (SHE ALREADY ACCOMPANIED MLADENOV ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO CAIRO, AND HER RECENT ACTIVITIES IN VIENNA IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING OF THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT RECEIVED UNUSUAL PUBLICITY HERE.) SEEMS CLEAR THAT SHE IS BEING PUSHED INTO GREATER PROMINENCE.

7. ONE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY STEMS FROM FACT BULGARIANS OBTAINED KNOWLEDGE OF FORTHCOMING GENSCHER VISIT TO BUCHAREST SUMMER 1975, AND PRESSED TO HAVE HIM COME TO SOFIA TO "FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ZHIVKOV VISIT TO BONN". (COMMUNIQUE ONLY NOTES THAT BULGARIANS INVITED GENSCHER AND "DATE WILL BE SET THROUGH DIPLO-CONFIDENTIAL

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MATIC CHANNELS".)

8. FOR PROTOCOL REASONS IT WAS NECESSARY FOR MLADENOV TO CALL UPON PRESIDENT SCHEEL TO DISCUSS BULGARIAN DESIRE FOR A ZHIVKOV VISIT. AMBASSADOR MENNE SAID THIS OCCASIONED NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY. SCHEEL HAD BEEN HERE AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1974, AND IN THAT CAPACITY HAD ALSO MET MLADENOV ON SEVERAL OTHER OCCASIONS.

9. ON BALANCE GERMANS ARE PLEASED WITH THE VISIT, MENNE SAID. SUCH VISITS INVOLVE MORE CEREMONY THAN SUBSTANCE BUT HELP TO MAKE PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN ASSURING A HEALTHY CLIMATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE. THE COMMUNIQUE INVOLVED NO PROBLEMS, MENNE SAID, AND IS CLOSELY PATTERNED ON THAT FOLLOWING THE SCHEEL VISIT HERE.

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